

# Brazil National Day Special

## Time for a renewed economic partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL



As the host of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Brazil congratulates Japan for organizing the 2020 Tokyo Games. We were glad to see the conclusion of the Olympic bridge from Rio

to Tokyo, with Japan giving the world an example of resilience and capability by overcoming the complexities posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Brazil celebrates its 199th year of independence, our relations with Japan are as strong as ever. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi visited Brazil last January, when we reaffirmed shared values and the common interest in further developing

our ties while working closely together in multilateral forums towards international peace and sustainable development.

Brazil has been reelected a member of the U.N. Security Council for the 2022-2023 biennium, and we support Japan's membership in 2023. We expect to reinforce our partnership in the Group of Four in support of U.N. Security Council reform. And for nearly 20 years, Brazil co-chaired with Japan the Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change. We're now working together toward achieving a meaningful result at the 26th Conference of Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in November.

Tackling climate change is urgent. And this is essentially an energy challenge: Energy produces three-fourths of global emissions. Brazil has suitable solutions, tested and approved. It's the only large economy to have already built a low-carbon power matrix. Renewables represent

85% of our power generation, by far the highest proportion among Group of 20 countries. Brazil has also the largest proportion of renewables in its total energy mix among the G20 — 48%.

Decarbonization presents many opportunities for bilateral cooperation. As Japan reviews its Strategic Energy Plan, Brazil is keen on contributing to Japan's energy transition. Bioenergy sources could drastically lower carbon dioxide emissions from road-based transport, aviation, and the power and steel industries, while generating jobs, income and increasing energy security.

And there is much more we can achieve. An economic partnership agreement between Mercosur (which comprises Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and Japan will reinvigorate our traditional partnership by promoting better access to markets, cheaper products and more investment. Brazil has been a top desti-

nation for Japanese investors, and the ongoing economic recovery offers new opportunities aligned with Japan's strategy of diversifying global supply chains for its companies.

Brazil is the missing link in Japan's network of trade agreements. The potential is enormous: As the third-largest exporter of agricultural products in the world, Brazil currently accounts for only 5% of Japan's food imports, much less than other partners.

Brazil's demand for Japanese agricultural goods is on the rise: Our largest city — Sao Paulo — has more Japanese restaurants than steakhouses. And Japan's DNA is imprinted on our agriculture, since it was the Japan International Cooperation Agency's technical assistance that supported the expansion of grain production in Brazil's hinterland. Also, since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Brazil has been among the few large economies to



A mural celebrating the bonds between Brazil and Japan adorns the facade of the Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo.

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open their domestic market to Fukushima's agricultural produce.

Finally, Brazil-Japan relations display a singular feature that unites our countries as no other: our human ties. Brazil is proud to have the largest Nikkei population in the world, while Japan has one of the biggest Brazilian communities abroad. We recently celebrated the Brazilian community's 30 years in Japan, and we're thankful for their role in promoting a better understanding of our culture and values in both countries.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Brazil's Rayssa Leal embraces Japan's Momiji Nishiya following the medal ceremony for women's street skateboarding at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on July 26. XINHUA

**Congratulations  
to the People of Brazil  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence**



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Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
the Federative Republic of Brazil  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day



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